

**Mansfield Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, May 12, 2003 2:30 PM –\*\* Mansfield Senior Center\*\***

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), Bob Gouldsbrough, Mary Thatcher, Beth Acebo, Curt Vincente (guest), Marilyn Gerling (staff), Jean Kenny (staff), Ray Moore, Carol McMillan, Elizabeth Norris, Nora Stevens.

REGRETS: Susanna Thomas, Barbara Ivry, Carol Phillips.

**I. Call to Order.**

Elizabeth Norris called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

The group observed a moment of silence to honor the memory of Phil Fichandler.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of the April 14, 2003 meeting:**

The minutes were approved as written.

**IV. Correspondence** - Chair and Staff: none

**V. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations**

**A. Health Care Services:**

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny distributed her monthly report. She has recently attended four days of training on Health Insurance Choices. A free skin cancer screening will be offered on June 3. Dr. Dana Woods will be speaking on glaucoma on May 28.

**B. Social, Recreational and Educational**

Senior Center – M. Gerling distributed her monthly report. The Spring Fling IV was cancelled due to weather. The three allied Health Dinners were extremely successful. A Volunteer Recognition luncheon was held on April 30. Marilyn is still searching for a volunteer Meals-On-Wheels driver for every other Monday.

**C. Housing:**

Assisted Living Project – B. Acebo mentioned that Assisted Living services are now being offered at Juniper Hill for an additional fee from Utopia Assisted Living Services. K. Grunwald and Howard Raphaelson met with representatives of Juniper Hill to learn more about these services. The Town is still interested in pursuing an assisted living initiative with the University of CT.

Juniper Hill: M. Gerling has been in contact with representatives of Juniper Hill about providing use of the Senior Center kitchen during their kitchen construction project.

Jensen's Park: B. Gouldsbrough reported that the long-term insurance representative had to cancel their presentation; someone will be coming from the Access Agency next month to present information on their services.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations:

Senior Resources of Eastern CT – Carol McMillan reported that this group is meeting tomorrow. The Senior Resources Health and Wellness Expo at the Nathan Hale Inn was a successful event.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips (not present)

Town Community Center: Curt Vincente came to the meeting as a guest to present on the status of the Community Center. Brochures and information about making donations were distributed. The Center is planning a “soft opening” on Aug. 1, with a Grand Opening to follow in mid-September. To date there are over \$28,000 in donations from charter members. Mansfield Pediatric Dentistry will be donating \$15,000 for the childcare room. There is an anonymous donation of \$250,000 for the walking track, which is being reviewed by the Town Council. The walking track has been approved by the building committee. Many seniors have expressed interest in the walking track. Protesters have not delayed progress on the building, but the winter weather has. Curt addressed concerns about Wellness programs moving to the Community Center. There is no plan to do this, but the intent is to work with Senior Services staff around developing new programs that may be of interest to seniors. The “off-peak” membership rate is targeted for seniors and non-working parents, but seniors can decide when and how they want to use the facility. The question was raised about whether or not evening recreation programs will move from the Senior Center, but the feeling is that the Community Center needs to be kept available for members. The daily use rate has been established for people who don’t anticipate using the Center with much frequency. Members will be given free guest passes as part of their membership. First round interviews have been conducted for the Health and Fitness Director, the Aquatic Director and the Recreation Director.

**VI. Old Business**

On-going study of the housing needs of the elderly: no report.

**VII. New Business:**

M. Gerling reported that the State Commission on Aging met at the Senior Center last week at Ray Moore’s invitation. They distributed a legislative update, which Marilyn can provide copies of. They are developing a “vial of life” sticker, which would be placed on individual’s cars to alert emergency personnel to medical needs of the driver.

**VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.**

(next meeting set for Monday, June 9, 2003 at 2:30, Senior Center)

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services